Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 /086 W

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R 200901Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 816

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT

FOSIF WASTPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ID PO PT AS

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS

REF: JAKARTA 12609 (150900Z OCT 75)

BEGIN SUMMARY: JAKARTA PRESS FEATURES FURTHER VICTORIES BY PROINDONESIAN FORCES IN PT, IN NEW OFFENSIVE AIMED ULTIMATELY AT DILI. GOI INTELLIGENCE AIDE CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO POLCOUNS THAT OFFENSIVE IS MAJOR EFFORT TO REGAIN

CONTROL OVER PT FROM FRETELIN FORCES, OT AT MINUMUM FORCE FRETELIN TO NEGOTIATING TABLE. GOI FONMIN MALIK IN MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTDCLY URGED CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN IMPARTIALITY AND AGREED TO GOA REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING FIVE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS MISSING IN PT. (BODIES OF FOUR WHITES DISCOVERED IN PT MAY BE MISSING JOURNALISTS). NEGOTIATION SITUATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN, WITH ANTICOMMUNIST MOVEMENT (ACM) REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE IF GOP REQUIRES RELEASE OF 23 CAPTURED SOLDIERS AS PRECONDITION, AND STATEMENT BY FONMIN MALIK TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH GOP FONMIN IN ROME NOV 1. END SUMMARY END CONFIDENTIAL BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 1. BATTLEFIELD. ACCORDING JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS, APODETI/ACM OFFENSIVE PROGRESSING APACE IN PT. TOWNS OF BALIBO (APPROX 15 KM FROM INDONSIAN BRODER) AND MALIANA (25 KM EAST OF BALIBO) REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN TO APODETI/ACM OCT 16. JAKARTA PRESS OCT 20 QUOTES UDT LEADER LOPEZ DA CRUZ AS STATING BALIBO/MALIANA DRIVE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ATTACKS ON BOBONARO, ATSABE, AND MAUBISSE AS STAGES OF OFFENSIVE WHOSE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS PT CAPITAL DILI. END LIMIED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL
- 2. ALI MURTOPO AIDE TOLD POLCOUNS THAT APODETI/ACM
 OFFENSIVE IN PT, WHICH HE SAID COMMENCED IN EARNEST
 OCT 15, EXPECTED TO GAIN MEMENTUM OVER COMING WEEK AND
 RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL APODETI/ACM VICTORIES IF NOT
 COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PT WITHIN ONE MONTH(IE PRIOR
 TO ONSET OF RAINY SEASON). AIDE SAID APODETI/ACM
 FORCES CONSISTED OF 3,800 "VOLUNTEERS."
 AIDE ALSO STRESSED THAT FRETELIN HAD BEEN
 PUT ON NOTICE BY OFFENSIVE THAT UNILATERAL FRETELIN RESOLUTION
 OF PT SITUATION WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED BY INDONESIA, SUGGESTING
 THAT GOI HAD NOT COMPLETELY CLOSED DOOR TO NEGOTIATED
 SETTLEMENT WITH FRETELIN PARTICIPATION. END CONFIDENTIAL
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- 3. MALIK/WOOLCOTT MEETING--MISSING AUSTRALIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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JOURNALISTS. GOI FONMIN MALIK TOLD PRESS FOLLOWING MEETING WITH GOA AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT OCT 18 AHT INDONESA HOPED AUSTRALIA WOULD AVOID FRETELIN ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE AUSTRALIA IN PT SITUATION IN ANY WAY WHICH MIGHT DISTURB GOI-GOA RELATIONS. MALIK REPORTEDLY DENIED TO WOOLCOTT THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS HAD ENTERED PT. PRESS REPORTS STATE WOOLCOTT REQUESTECD GOI ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING FIVE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS MISSING

IN PT(PRESS REPORTS OCT 20 STATE BODIES OF FOUR WHITES, POSSIBLY THOSE OF AUSTRALIAN REPORTERS, FOUND IN RUBBLE OF A BUILDING IN BALIBO.)

4. NEGOTIATIONS. INDONESIAN STATE NEWS AGENCY ANTARA OCT 17 REPORTED THAT ACM LEADERSHIP HAD SENT LETTER TO PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON PT IF GOP INSISTED ON RELEASE OF 23 PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS HELD BY ACM AS PRIOR CONDITION FOR TALKS. COPIES OF LETTER REPORTEDLY SENT TO GOI, GOA AND UN DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. MALIK TOLD AMBASSADOR IN MEETING OCT 18 THAT HE
WOULD TRAVEL TO ROME FOR DISCUSSIONS OF PT
PROBLEM WITH PORTUGUDSE FONMIN ON NOV 1. MALIK DID NOT
INDICATE WHETHER HE EXPECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF PT PARTIES ALSO
TO BE PRESENT AT TALKS, BUT IMPLIED THAT TALKS WOULD BE BILATERAL AND
SEPARATE FROM PROPOSED GOP-PT PARTIES NEGOTIATIONS.
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6. REFUGEES. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES REPORTING ON INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO CARE FOR PT REFUGEES AND BURDEN IMPOSED ON GOI BY REFUGDE SITUATION. MALIK REPORTED AS TELLING WOOLCOTT THAT REFUGEES WOULD BE REPATRIATED TO PT, UNDER PROTECTION OF SECURITY GUARDS IF NECESSARY, AND JAKARTA PAPERS OCT 20 REPORT THAT AS OCT 17 SOME REFUGEES HAD BEGUN TO RETURN TO APODETI/ ACM CONTROLLED TERRITORY. NEWSOM

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